



Homelessness Facts: North and East King County

- Crisis Clinic Community Information Line received 506 calls from people from North and East King County who identified themselves as homeless (2003).
- Each year, the Seattle King County Coalition for the Homeless conducts a “One Night Count,” which includes a street count and a survey of homeless shelters and transitional programs.
 - An estimated 8,000 people in King County are homeless on any given night. The survey found 4,617 people in shelters and transitional programs; counted 1,899 people surviving outside without shelter; and estimated an additional approximately 1,265 people live unsheltered in King County outside Seattle.
 - 2003 “One Night Count” survey found that although 85% of the emergency shelter and transitional programs participating in the survey are located in the City of Seattle, only 52% of the households reported Seattle as their last permanent address.
 - In fact, 11%, or 232 households reported North or East King County as their last permanent address. This was up from 200 households in 2002. Permanent address is defined as a place occupied for at least two months excluding shelter and transitional housing.
- In 2003, Health Care for the Homeless program staff (with Community Health Centers of King County) provided 1,051 health care visits to homeless adults, families, youth, and children in North and East King County. Common health problems included upper respiratory infections, skin disorders, heart problems, and chronic conditions such as diabetes and asthma.
- Of the 30 deaths among homeless people identified by the King County Medical Examiner's office so far in 2004, 10 of the decedents (33%) were in communities outside Seattle. Homeless deaths have occurred in Kirkland, Clyde Hill, Lake Forest Park, Tukwila, Maple Valley, Kent, and Auburn. (Source: Health Care for the Homeless Network and King County Medical Examiner.)
- The following statistics relate to clients of homeless programs funded through King County in 2003 (King County, federal and state funds).
 - 398 of 2,078 (19.15%) persons served in emergency shelter were from the Eastside and 77 were from North Urban area (combined total of 22.86%).
 - 216 of the 1,116 (19.35%) persons served in transitional housing were from the Eastside and 34 were from North Urban area (combined total of 22.40%).
- The Housing Stability Program provided \$52,574 in homelessness prevention services to 49 families in the communities of Bothell, Issaquah, Kirkland, Lake Forest Park, Mercer Island, Redmond, Shoreline, Carnation, Duvall, Kenmore, North Bend,

Snoqualmie and Woodinville. An additional \$34,478 went to 34 households in unincorporated King County, a portion of which would be in north and east county.

- There is a lack of shelter beds and transitional housing in East King County. Some emergency shelter for families exists on the Eastside but the demand exceeds availability. From 2001-2002, there was a 42% increase in the number of families and individuals turned away from the Hopelink Family Shelter (Kenmore).
- The largest multi-service center in East County reports an average turn-away rate of 6 families for every family served in transitional housing.
- A survey of 612 randomly selected households in East County in October 2003 revealed that nearly 2% reported that one or more members of these households needed emergency shelter in the preceding 12 months. (Source: Moder Research and Communications, Inc., 2003)
- Housing costs are outpacing wages. Many are paying over 30% of income for housing. Less than 25% of Bellevue housing is affordable to those below 80% of median income. (Source: 2003-4 Bellevue Human Services Needs Update)
- Throughout King County only 32.4% of rental housing is affordable for low-income families. Only 12.6% of rental housing in Bothell is affordable, and 9% of rental housing in Kirkland.
- No cities in East King County have sufficient affordable housing for families with incomes in the 30-80% range of annual median income. East King County has the least amount of affordable rental housing in the county for people at 50% of median income. (Source: A Regional Coalition for Housing)
- Situational poverty: Further exacerbating the effects of chronic poverty and low incomes on housing affordability and family economic stability on the Eastside has been the situational poverty associated with the economic downturn of the past 3-4 years and a near doubling in the unemployment rate in King County from 3.6% in 2000 to 6.5% in 2002-in the midst of continued population growth, e.g., Bellevue's population grew 6% between 2000-2003. (Source: 2003 King County Annual Growth Report)
- Eastside Interfaith Social Concerns Council, which operates the Congregations for the Homeless shelter program for single homeless men, reports that poor economic conditions have affected the type of clients they serve. More men fall into the 34-55 age range instead of the 22-34 age range, and they tend to already have job skills. The unemployment rate is 65% for those entering the program, and 34% have no income.

Source: King County Department of Community and Human Services Web site:
<http://www.metrokc.gov/dchs/csd/Housing/TentCity.htm>

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